

WASHINGTON – Today, Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), a senior member of the Budget and Ways and Means committees and former 12-year member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, released the following statement regarding transportation priorities in the President's budget:

"The President's budget offers a rational prescription for fixing our crumbling transportation network. While Republicans in Congress are trying to loot the public transit fund and kneecap alternative modes of transportation, this budget lays the foundation for renewing our infrastructure and prosperity.

"A six-year, \$476 billion transportation reauthorization will allow job creators in the transportation and construction industries the certainty they need to move forward. At a time when the future of Middle East oil has never looked more uncertain, a doubling of our commitment to public transit will help commuters and families through the ups and downs of gas prices. And in a time period when Americans are looking to stretch their dollars as much as possible, the planning provisions in the budget will help communities ensure that their transportation dollars also have a positive impact on economic development, housing options, and environmental protection. Most of all, the fact that these investments will be paid for by savings in the military budget are a powerful sign that it's time to invest in American prosperity, not costly adventures abroad.

"This budget presents a challenge to Congress that will show whether or not members of both parties are serious about sustaining an economic recovery. It's time for Congress to meet this challenge and pass transportation legislation that is essential to the world's leading economy."